

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

DAILY LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

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DAILY 3

Daytime: 7 8 5

Evening: 3 5 1

DAILY DERBY

1st: 08 Gorgeous George

2nd: 05 California Classic

3rd: 01 Gold Rush

RACE TIME: 1:41.83

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

London's Daily Telegraph reported in August on the veiled but apparently active market of British collectors who buy and sell fetuses and stillborn babies, with one seller saying he has heard of prices over 5,000 pounds (US\$9,100). The major suppliers, apparently, are labs and medical schools, which dispose of their "curiosities," usually deformed fetuses such as babies with two heads. Said one dealer, of the seriousness of the collectors, "(It) is a very small market, but a very keen market."

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Aug. 27, 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa blew up; the resulting tidal waves in Indonesia's Sunda Strait claimed some 36,000 lives in Java and Sumatra.

In 1770, German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel was born in Stuttgart.

In 1892, fire seriously damaged New York's original Metropolitan Opera House.

In 1894, Congress passed the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act, which contained a provision for a graduated income tax that was later struck down by the Supreme Court.

In 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In 1945, American troops began landing in Japan following the surrender of the Japanese government in World War II.

In 1962, the United States launched the Mariner II space probe, which flew past Venus the following December.

In 1967, Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, was found dead in his London flat from an overdose of sleeping pills.

In 1975, Haile Selassie, the last emperor of Ethiopia's 3,000-year-old monarchy, died in Addis Ababa at age 83 almost a year after being overthrown.

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Sen. Kerry stumps in Santa Monica

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

FAIRMONT MIRAMAR — Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry raised \$3 million here Thursday while hundreds of supporters heard his plan for a reformed health care system.

Kerry promised those gathered at the \$5,000-a-plate dinner at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel that his first legislative push would involve health care reform and proposed a series of measures he says would make health insurance more widely available and more affordable.

"Forty-five million people have no health care, and 163 million have health care through their employer, but the premiums, co-pays and deductibles keep going up, while the benefits are going down," he said. "Four years of this president, and there are no plans at all for health care."

In front of supporters — who included Tony Bennett and former California Governor Gray Davis — Kerry said his plan would increase funding for medical safety net programs like Medicaid, while also providing health insurance coverage for 99 percent of the nation's children. It also would offer tax credits for businesses that provide health insurance to employees and would allow individuals to buy into the same health insurance program that's available to many government employees,

See KERRY, page 6



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press

Sen. John Kerry speaks to hundreds of supporters at a Santa Monica hotel on Thursday, touting his plan for health care and laying out his vision for the country's future.

Democratic club makes its picks for local election

BY GENEVA WHITMARSH

Daily Press Staff Writer

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

Three local incumbents failed this week to garner the support of the Santa Monica Democratic Club in their repeat bid for Santa Monica City Council.

The club elected to endorse Mayor Richard Bloom, councilman Ken Genser and former school board president Patricia Hoffman. Pico neighborhood activist Maria Loya initially failed to garner the 60 percent vote, but was endorsed in a run-off with Matteo Dinolfo.

Dinolfo, incumbent Herb Katz

"It is unusual for an incumbent not to be endorsed."

— JULIE LOPEZ DAD

Santa Monica Democratic Club President

and Bobby Shriver didn't receive enough votes to be endorsed.

There are 15 candidates running for four open City Council seats. Up for reelection are Mike Feinstein, Katz, Genser and Bloom.

Incumbent candidate Margaret R. Quinones didn't receive backing in her run for the Santa Monica College board of trustees,

despite having been a member of the club for more than 10 years. Professor Susan Aminoff also came up short, with the endorsement going instead to local attorney Rob Rader and Doug Willis, an accountant. There are three open seats on the SMC board.

Members also voted to endorse incumbent Maria Leon-Vazquez

and local volunteer Kathy Wisnicki in the race for the board of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, shutting out incumbent Jose Escarce and Pico neighborhood parent Ana Maria Jara. There are three open seats on the school board.

"It is unusual for an incumbent not to be endorsed," said club president Julie Lopez Dad. "What happened this year is that we had a lot of good candidates. In practical terms, that means someone who is good won't get in."

Flanked by posters demanding an end to the war in Iraq and declaring 2004 the "Year of the

See CLUB, page 6

City Council candidate steps down from race

By Daily Press Staff

The race for four open seats on the Santa Monica City Council shrank to 15 people Thursday.

Leah Mendelsohn, a local activist in the democratic party who had tossed her hat into the ring after working to mobilize a group of residents angered over the city's hedge policies,

announced Thursday she has dropped out of the race.

Mendelsohn said she has been extremely active in the John F. Kerry campaign, and would not have time to pursue both Kerry's election and her own. She also said she wanted to bolster the chances of a group of candidates who will be opposing the Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights, the

ruling coalition that has dominated local politics for the past 26 years.

Despite her verbal withdrawal, Mendelsohn's name will remain on the ballot. Eleven candidates not endorsed by SMRR are still in contention for the four open council seats, including incumbents Mike Feinstein and Herb Katz.

Mendelsohn said she expected her chosen four — Katz; local res-

ident and hedge activist Bobby Shriver; doctor Matt Dinolfo and Red Cross worker Tom Viscout — to unify as a formal slate in the upcoming weeks. She cautioned that a bid to unseat SMRR could fall short if voters aren't united and instead spread their votes among the numerous candidates opposing the ruling coalition.

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult





ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Pressure builds where you least expect it. Focus on your long-term goals and desires. You know what you want and where you are heading. Others might toss obstacles in your path. Skip right over them. Be sure you are not creating this hassle. Tonight: Hang with friends as you begin the weekend.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Surprises happen. What you thought was a sure deal just might not be, as an unexpected twist occurs in the scenario. Use care mixing friends with work, or friends with loved ones. Keep your interests separate. Tonight: A must appearance.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ You might find conflicts occurring with work and your personal life. You might feel like a rubber band in some way. Call on your intellect, higher self and problem-solving abilities. Trust that you'll find a solution. Tonight: Split town ASAP.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Express your ability to walk through rigid thinking and situations and break the mold. A partner or associate proves to be a great supporter and adviser. He or she wants to break past restrictions as well. Tonight: Express the best of yourself in a relationship.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Express your concern about a financial agreement, which you might feel that someone is sabotaging. Also let others express their concern, and listen to their suggestions. Right now, you're not in a position of power. Tonight: Follow others' lead, for once!



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ You might be causing problems with an already difficult person. Be willing to be held accountable for your actions. Concentrate on what you can do as opposed to what might be impossible. Laugh and enjoy yourself to the utmost. Tonight: Go for easy.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your playfulness emerges at work, home or wherever you are. Recognize that you aren't in the mood to work and could easily shirk your responsibilities. Try to cut out of work early or take a half-day. Tonight: Kick up your heels.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ You might be doing a tango with more than even you can handle. Use discretion within relationships. Don't assume that everyone's perspective is the same as yours, because it isn't. Use more sensitivity. Tonight: Head home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Talk and communicate all you want. There still might be an element of uproar around you. Others push beyond normal. At worst you could have an explosive response. Remember that you are in control of your reactions. Pick and choose. Tonight: Out with your pals.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★ Curbing spending could bring a surprising change in your attitude and approach. Investigate and visualize more of what you want through brainstorming and conversations. Learn that your way is not the only way. Tonight: Treating doesn't need to be exorbitant.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You are high energy, creative and use the unexpected to help you. And you pull the wild card financially on top of it all. Anchor in on someone else's needs as well. The two of you will gain as a result. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Don't assume anything. Listen to others' opinions and ideas. You might need to mull them over some. Do not permit yourself to overreact. Weigh the pros and cons of a situation. Tonight: Go for mystery. Vanish!

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Quartet screams for ice cream

By Daily Press staff

All the ice cream you can eat?

That's the promise of the Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus at their annual old-fashioned Ice Cream Social, to be held Aug. 28 at the First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica, 1008 11th St., two blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Doors to the two-hour session of songs and sun-daes open at 6:30 p.m.

Under the direction of Bob Heron, the Oceanaires will perform a variety of favorite American tunes, along with showcasing some of the group's quartets.

"We guarantee you'll leave hummin' and happy," said Bruce Schroffel, the group's resident magician who always has a few tricks up his sleeve to augment the evening of song and fun.

Admission is \$8 for kids and seniors, and \$10 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at the door, but reservations are recommended because the event sells out every year. Advance reservations are recommended to speed your way to the front of the ice cream sundae line. Tickets will be held at the will call table. For further information and advanced ticket sales, contact Marty Mitnick (310) 472-1382, or reserve online at www.oceanaires.org.

The Santa Monica Oceanaires Barber Shop Chorus is a registered chapter of the national Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., the world's largest male singing society.



Photo courtesy

Palisades and Santa Monica residents Alan Hansen and Dick Keagy (back row) and Earl Gauger and Marty Mitnick (front) get ready for their annual Ice Cream Social, hosted by the Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus.



Photo courtesy

Fifty students and teachers from Jane Warner's School of Alta Dena were hosted by members of the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International Surf Club for a day of surf lessons and fun at Bay Street in Santa Monica.

enthusiasm despite the rainy weather and as result they won this 'surf day' over the other schools we had invited."

The religious right to clean up local beaches

By Daily Press staff

Bay Street at Santa Monica Beach was the scene of a lot of excitement and activity recently as 50 students and teachers from Jane Warner's School in Alta Dena hit the surf for a day of fun in the sun and "hanging 10."

After cleaning up the beach, the kids ranging in ages from 2 to 13 were treated to free surfing lessons by Rob Hoover and Mike Falkow, two former professional surfers and members of the Church of Scientology Celebrity Centre International Surf Club.

Hoover said, "this school came here in April for our annual Earth Day clean-up in large numbers and with lots of



SURF REPORT

On Friday look for a mix of increased NW wind swell, both fading and building NW ground swells (290+300+) and some fading SE (160-165) and SW (210-220) swells. For the better NW exposed breaks of San Diego, Ventura and the South Bay look for waist-chest high surf. For the breaks without the good NW exposure, look for the small southerly swell mix to produce mostly 2-3' waves.

Expect 2-3 foot waves, knee- to chest-high, occasionally 5 feet and fair conditions.

Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing today at your local break.

Today the water is:

68°



LOW TIDES

HIGH TIDES

	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:45	1.6	8:24	1.5	12:54	4.0	1:27	5.1
SUNDAY	7:18	2.1	10:03	1.2	2:13	3.4	2:19	5.2
MONDAY	8:06	2.7	11:38	0.7	4:31	3.0	3:28	5.4
TUESDAY	9:46	3.0	N/A	N/A	6:52	3.2	4:48	5.6
WEDNESDAY	12:47	0.0	11:35	3.0	7:51	3.7	6:02	6.0
THURSDAY	1:40	-0.5	12:49	2.7	8:28	4.0	7:03	6.5
FRIDAY	2:24	-0.9	1:46	2.3	9:01	4.4	7:56	6.8

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The QLine

Election time is drawing near. That means now, more than ever, it is important for citizens to let their elected officials and those running for office know exactly what is on their minds.

It's your chance to sound off, Santa Monica.

So this week, Q-line wants to know, "What's bugging you? What issues

need to be brought to the table during this election season and what do you have to say about them?"

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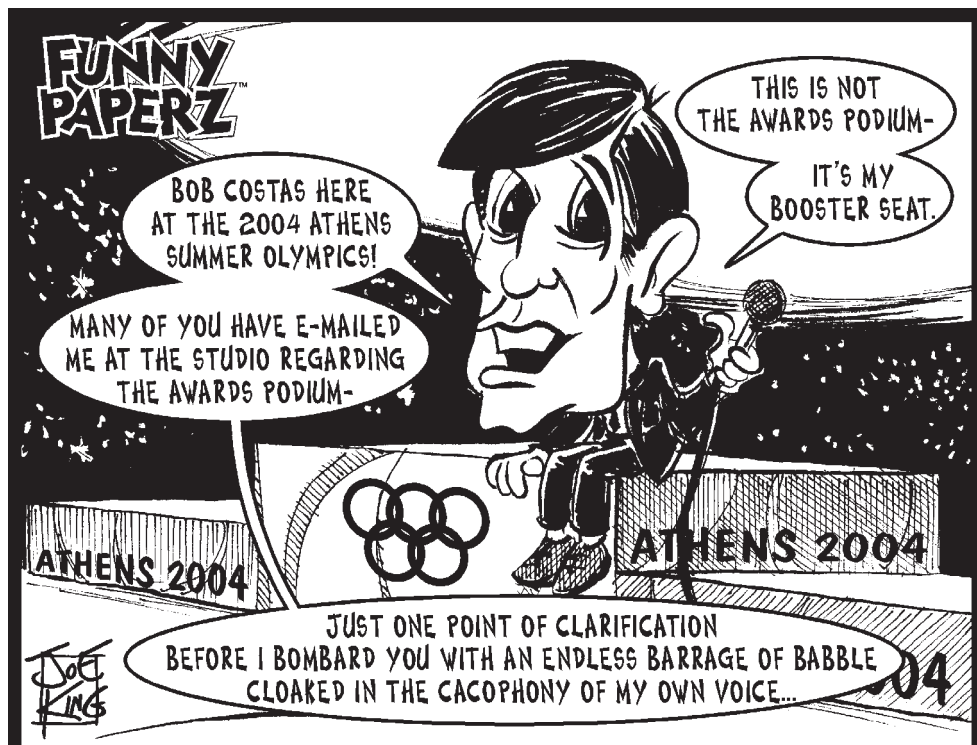
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OPINION



Remember the amazing elevator chair from the Winter venue?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School split will hurt many

Editor:

Perhaps it is because schools are out of session for the summer that the only voices being heard on the frivolous notion of breaking the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District into one district for each city are those of one very small group.

It is important to make clear that the strong and overwhelming belief throughout both communities is that the Santa Monica-Malibu schools comprise one district, indivisible.

Splitting up our excellent school system into separate districts for Santa Monica and Malibu would be unnecessarily costly, senselessly duplicative and of no real benefit for students.

Historically, Malibu junior and senior high school students attended Santa Monica schools. Our Santa Monica district built the Malibu schools and the overall district shares many services, benefits and employees.

Text and curriculum development, special education, personnel, payroll, benefits, food services, clerical, janitorial, skilled labor, substitute teachers, music, adaptive PE, security, computer services and more are district-wide functions with staff working in both cities. Plus, teachers, aides and administrators routinely work in Santa Monica one year and Malibu the next — a flexibility that also benefits the district's students.

In the past, Malibu had greater representation on the school board, but that's a political issue unrelated to the district's high education standards, which could be jeopardized should a Malibu-Santa Monica split become reality.

As a district substitute teacher for the past seven years, I have regularly taught at every school in both cities. From 1959 to 1970, I was a student in the Santa Monica-Malibu schools.

Rufus Baker
Santa Monica

Vote for a change

Editor:

Hooray for Linda Rosenthal. She told it like it is in her letter (SMDP, Aug. 19, page 4), "Priority check needed in City Hall." Remember this when you vote for new City Council members in November. There has to be a change.

Lois Miller
Santa Monica

Administration short on morals

Editor:

Regarding the article, "Report expected to absolve senior commanders" (SMDP, Aug. 20, page 11). This title alone deserves a resounding, "duh."

I read this article with interest and cynical amusement that the Army was investigating itself on the abuse of prisoners and found (ha, ha, big surprise) that no "important" (read upper echelon) personnel were responsible for ordering and/or condoning the abuses. Are we supposed to buy this?

Excuse me, but isn't this a case of putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop? How about an independent investigation with no political ax to grind? Probably not under the present administration, where truth and integrity is in extremely short shift.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Live by the sword, you will die by the sword



HERE'S THE THING

BY LARA M. BROWN, Ph.D.

Is Sen. John Kerry running for Swift Boat Commander or President of the United States of America? If it's the latter, then he had best stop talking about the past. Presidential campaigns are about the future, and Kerry is letting this campaign slip past him because he can't seem to leave the past behind.

There are three separate, yet converging dynamics occurring in this race, and Kerry is being out foxed in each dimension.

Incumbents have a lower bar to clear than do challengers. They don't have to defend their biography because by virtue of being in office, they're imbued with the legitimacy of that office — unless a scandal has revealed that their character was not what the voters believed it to be when they voted for them. Incumbents need only to: (a) defend his or her performance, and (b) propose an agenda for future. Neither is difficult in a system like ours, where shared powers, overlapping jurisdictions, and competing interests make spreading the blame for mistakes and taking credit for successes relatively simple.

Challengers must not only propose an agenda for the future, but they must also pass a credibility test with the electorate. They must defend their biography — their character and their performance over the course of their entire life — along with their plans. It's more like clearing two hurdles instead of one high bar.

Timing matters. If a politician discovers that his constituents want more recreational space, and proposes a bill for more national park land, he's called "an environmental leader." If he reads the newspaper, which shows that people in his district favor more recreational space by a 2-1 margin, and he signs onto national park legislation, he's referred to as "a poll-watcher."

Whether a politician is seen as leading or following trends, or acting defensively or offensively, matters to both the voters and the media.

If you look closely at most polls, Kerry leads Bush by about 10 percentage points (60 percent to 40 percent, outside the typical margin of error, which is usually +/- 3.5 percent) on questions related to the economy, health care and education.

On questions related to terrorism, Bush tends to edge out Kerry, though mostly they are tied (within the margin of error, both around 45 percent). On questions

related to Iraq, Kerry and Bush go back and forth with the lead, though mostly they are tied — within the margin of error, again around 45 percent.

This has been a fairly stable dynamic since about May, which leaves only one question: If you have a significant advantage on the economy, health care and education (issues that your opponent has a poor record on), why would you not choose to take this fight to him? Why would anyone continue to do battle on a turf on which they held no advantage?

One rule that is as true in politics as it is in sports, if you play your opponent's game, you'll lose.

For Kerry to win, he needs to repeat (again and again): "Mr. President, why have you not stewarded our economy, our health care system, and our education system better? I understand you've been fighting terrorism, protecting the American people, and waging a battle in Iraq, but as my vice presidential nominee once said: 'A president must be able to walk and chew gum at the same time,' and you, Mr. Bush, do not seem to be able to do that. I think I could do better. My biography shows I can. But more importantly, here's what I would do if I were in your shoes (a), (b), (c) ..."

Instead, Kerry has not moved on from the attacks on his service record. The campaign's message seems to be: "When I was in Vietnam."

Kerry should have used these last three weeks (in between the Democratic Convention and the Republican Convention), to propose his agenda for the future. He should have forced Bush onto his turf, so that he would have had to defend himself during his own convention.

Kerry had the opportunity to have the GOP playing his game in New York. But by conceding this time to "biography clarification," Kerry conceded that he's willing to play defense up until Election Day. Kerry now has to wait to respond to the Republicans' newly proposed agenda until after their convention, and this means that by Labor Day it will all just look like "me, too" to most voters.

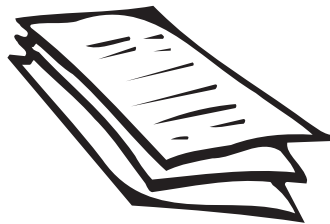
Here's The Thing:

Kerry didn't accomplish what he needed to do this summer — put Bush on the defensive. Kerry sought to do it with his biography of military service and his record on foreign policy, but the "close-up" on those numbers tell you that was not the turf to fight the battle on. But Karl Rove already knew that.

(Lara M. Brown, Ph.D., is a political scientist from Los Angeles, and is teaching this semester in Arkansas, at Hendrix College and UALR. She can be reached at larambrown@aol.com).

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Santa Monica Daily Press

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY BY GLEN WOICESHYN

Judge correct to uphold right to abortion

U.S. District Judge Richard Casey of Manhattan was right to declare the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act — signed last year by President Bush — unconstitutional. Such a ban constitutes a grave threat to women's health and a violation of their rights and should be struck down.

When abortion was illegal in America, many women died or suffered serious medical problems from either self-induced or illegal "back-alley" abortions. Women streamed into emergency rooms with punctured wombs, massive bleeding, and rampant infections.

Thanks to the Roe vs. Wade (1973) Supreme Court decision, women today have access to safe abortions by medically trained professionals under sanitary conditions. But anti-abortionists are changing all this.

A law banning "partial-birth" abortions establishes a precedent for criminalizing other types of abortion — as America slides down the dangerous slope to "back-alley" abortions. Those who are truly pro-life must grasp the ominous implications of and underlying motives behind such anti-abortion laws — before it's too late.

"Partial-birth" abortion, also known as intact dilation and extraction (D&X), is designed primarily to be used in the case of 5- and 6-month-old fetuses that are dying, malformed, or threatening the woman's health or life. The procedure involves pulling the fetus from the womb, except for the head which is too large to pass without injuring the woman. The head is then collapsed to allow removal. This procedure is designed for the maximum protection of the woman. The late-term alternative to D&X, one that doesn't require partial removal, involves dismembering the fetus in the womb before extraction — a much riskier procedure.

Anti-abortionists coined the term "partial birth" to suggest that the partially removed

fetus is no longer "unborn," and, therefore, Roe vs. Wade no longer applies (so they allege). But linguistic manipulation can't create an essential distinction when none exists. A woman has a right to her own body, and if she chooses to abort, then all effort should be made to protect the woman from injury. To rule otherwise is to negate this right.

Banning any type of abortion to "protect the fetus" necessarily grants rights to the fetus — an utter perversion of individual rights. If a woman has no right to her own body, then by what logic does a fetus (which, by definition, is a biological parasite) have a right to the woman's body? Properly, an infant's rights begin after the fetus is removed from the mother's body.

It is a woman's individual rights — to her life, to her liberty, and to the pursuit of her happiness — that sanctions her right to have an abortion. Once "fetal rights" are granted to one stage of the pregnancy, nothing will prevent their extension to all stages. "Fetal rights" are a gimmick to destroy a woman's individual rights.

Tragically, many "pro-choicers" have conceded the "partial-birth" debate to the anti-abortionists and accept a ban as a compromise (and merely quibble about its scope). Such "pro-choicers" have apparently been hoodwinked by the anti-abortionists' strategy of emotionalism and evasion designed to disguise their deeper purpose.

The anti-abortionists' strategy involves focusing solely on the fetus and describing the abortion in gruesome detail. Their professed compassion for the fetus apparently leaves no room for considering the woman's health and happiness. For them, waving a picture of a bloody, mangled fetus constitutes an argument. If so, then so does waving a picture of a woman whose future was ruined because she was denied an abortion — or of a woman

bloody and mangled by a "back-alley" abortion.

A picture is not an argument — and should not be allowed as a cover-up.

While anti-abortionists' attacks are primarily focused on rarely performed late-term abortions, they zealously want all abortions banned. Helen Alvare, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Bishops and a staunch enemy of D&X, has declared, "In a moral sense all abortions are equally awful."

According to anti-abortionist dogma, God places the soul in the womb at conception. Hence, via a leap of faith, the fertilized egg — a tiny cell — is granted the status of human being. At that moment, the woman's status is demoted to that of slave and breeding mare — and her womb becomes God's property (which, in practice, means the government's property). The rights of the woman have therefore been sacrificed to the alleged rights of the fetus. According to this dogma, abortion is murder at any stage of the pregnancy (which explains why some "pro-lifers" feel morally sanctioned to kill doctors and bomb abortion clinics).

The anti-abortionists' war against "partial-birth" abortions is a smokescreen to ban all abortions. Abortion is a woman's moral right. "Pro-choicers" must reject compromise and fight any law prohibiting abortion on principle — the principle of individual rights — the principle upon which this pro-rights country was founded.

(Glenn Woiceshyn is a senior writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, Calif. The Institute promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of Atlas Shrugged and The Fountainhead. Send reactions to reaction@aynrand.org).



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LOCAL

Kerry attracts Hollywood players at SM fundraiser



Carolyn Sackariason/DailyPress
Former California Governor Gray Davis and his wife, Sharon, meet and greet before Sen. John Kerry's fundraising dinner on Thursday.



Crill Hansen/Special to the Daily Press
Tony Bennett performs during dinner at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

KERRY, from page 1

including members of Congress.

It would cost, by some estimates, as much as \$800 billion over 10 years to implement Kerry's plan for health care. The candidate says he'd pay for that

largely by rolling back tax cuts on people who earn more than \$200,000 a year, as well as reducing health care administrative costs and allowing the re-importation of prescription drugs from other countries, where they're sold at deep discounts rela-

tive to prices in the U.S.

Bush's plan, by contrast, would cost less than \$100 billion over the next decade, Kerry said. Bush has proposed tax incentives for people who buy their own health insurance, and for people who set up personal medical savings accounts. Bush asserts that if people paid directly for health care, they would be more likely to use only services they really need — thereby reducing the overall cost.

Kerry briefly touched on the subjects of family values, after-school programs, global warming, stem cell research and the war in Iraq.

"Working with other countries is not a sign of weakness — it's a sign of strength," he said in reference to the war, while he called an end to the hefty price tag associated with imprisoning inmates and a renewed interest in Headstart and other youth programs.

The senator called the Nov. 2 election "the most important election of our lifetimes."

"Everything that we care about as a country — everything that defines us — is

on the line," he said. "There's not a moment in history since the Great Depression that there's been a record this bad or a choice this clear."

Kerry also accused the Republicans of trying to run a smear campaign rather than taking on the competition for the White House with direct debate on the issues.

"This president won't talk about the issues," Kerry said. "This president doesn't have a record to run on, he has a record to run away from, and that's why he engages in politics of fear and smear."

In response, the Bush-Cheney campaign has said there would be plenty of time for discussion with Kerry during the three scheduled presidential debates, the first of which will be held at the end of next month.

Overall, the mood at the fundraiser was fairly light, with singer Tony Bennett crooning "The Best is Yet to Come," while celebrities dined on a three-course meal. Among those in attendance were Sharon Stone, Angelica Houston and Sen. Barbara Boxer.

"Don't think of this as a fundraiser," Kerry joked. "Think of it as my Hollywood audition for the West Wing."

Endorsements flowing in for campaign 2004

CLUB, from page 1

Democrat," each of the candidates took the microphone at St. Anne's Catholic Church Wednesday night and told the audience of about 75 people why they wanted the club's endorsement.

Members then cast votes for four of the seven city council contenders who are Democrats, and three each of the four school and college board candidates. Candidates who received 60 percent of the votes were automatically endorsed. The candidates who received at least 20 percent were entered into a run-off election.

Already, Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, a powerful political group that has supported a majority of elected leaders for the last 26 years, has handed out endorsements in all four races. SMRR's backing is worth tens of thousands of dollars to candidates, as the group sends out election mailers and employs a team of supporters to canvas local neighborhoods before each election.

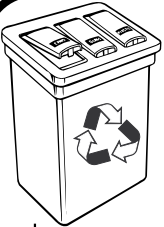
For the SMC board, it dumped Quinones

to support Aminoff, Rader and Willis. In the local school board race, it will back Escarce and Leon-Vazquez and Jara.

In the City Council race, SMRR members voted to back incumbent Mayor Bloom, alongside Genser, Hoffman and Loya.

Challenging the SMRR slate will be a group calling itself the "Team for Change," which includes former newspaper columnist Bill Bauer, database analyst Kathryn Morea and David Cole, a Mid-cities neighborhood activist and the executive director of a senior care facility in Woodland Hills. The group has criticized City Hall for, among other things, allowing homelessness and government bureaucracy to run rampant.

Also a contender this year will be the Chamber of Commerce, which is expected to endorse candidates sometime around Labor Day. Like the "Team for Change," officials said the chamber plans to focus on City Hall's policies toward the homeless and its excessive bureaucracy, as well as other issues.



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STATE



Murders jolt coastal town's laid-back lifestyle

BY BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press Writer

JENNER — Investigators in the slaying of two camp counselors have tried to reassure unnerved residents of the Northern California coast that they're making progress in finding a killer.

The fatal shootings of Lindsay Cutshall, 22, and Jason Allen, 26, as they slept on a remote beach have put the typically laid-back population of the rugged area on edge.

Lt. Dave Edmonds of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department said police have received about 350 tips and were investigating new ones Thursday but wouldn't say if they have been productive.

"We are pumping the well really hard on this. ... To look at them on their face and say there's a direct link to solving the crime is premature," Edmonds said. "We are preparing for a long investigation if necessary."

Concerned the killer might still be in their midst, some residents have taken the unusual precaution of locking the doors to their homes, many of which are at the end of winding, single-lane roads that climb up the bluffs and cattle pastures around Jenner, a small Cliffside outpost where the Russian River empties into the Pacific.

After sifting the sand for evidence on the beach where the couple was found dead in their sleeping bags, investigators had little to tell a standing-room-only crowd during a briefing Wednesday night at the Jenner Community Center.

For two days it appeared they might have a break in the case by locating a Wisconsin drifter, but police said the tip proved wrong, and the young man was allowed to leave after passing a lie detector test.

One woman said she was terrified when a police helicopter swept its beam around her house at night, thinking they were close to catching a suspect. But Lt. Roger Rude said officers would continue conducting the nighttime helicopter searches, using heat detection devices in hopes of finding anyone who might be hiding on the beaches, far below rocky, brush-covered bluffs.

The couple was killed as they slept on the dark sand among a driftwood-covered beach that was an apparent party spot and an occasional, though illegal, campsite in the Sonoma Coast State Park. Beer cans, bottles and old shoes are strewn through the driftwood. Charcoal-scrawled messages read "driftwood inn" and "my beach" on some of the timbers framing rickety shelters.

About 80 residents who live around the town of 170 people attended the meeting.

Some seemed more intent on floating their own theories that might help solve the crime.

Joe Hawkins, a retired electrical engineer who lives a few miles south in Bodega Bay, confessed to harboring whodunit fantasies. He wanted to tell officers about the drifter he caught picking through his garbage can last week.

With the exception of a woman who wanted to know the caliber of bullet used so she could compare it with guns she knows people carry in town (police wouldn't disclose the evidence), most of the suspicion seemed to be cast toward outsiders.

Could it have been part of a San Francisco-area gang initiation? A joy killing? Had they considered whether the killer might have come by boat?

Investigators acknowledged divers had been looking for evidence, but they offered little else, saying they were considering all possibilities.

Real estate agent Dwayne Rickard told the audience he stepped outside his home to smoke a cigar when he heard a pistol shot just before 9 p.m. on Aug. 17 — the day before the bodies were found.

Richard Charter said he heard a gunshot or firecracker 20 minutes earlier, five miles down the coast, but he also acknowledged that somebody might have simply been firing a weapon for kicks. "What's called promiscuous shooting is not unheard of here," he said.

A woman wondered aloud whether the shooter might be ambidextrous, firing two guns simultaneously to mask the sound of a second shot. People in the audience laughed.

Many wanted a better timeline so they could jog their memories about what they were doing and who they might have seen. Edmonds said police are using photos of the couple developed from a camera found near the crime scene to help establish a timeline.

Several witnesses have provided conflicting details about when they saw the couple, who came to town Aug. 14 from their Christian adventure sports camp in the Sierra foothills, and were found Aug. 18.

Rich Pearson believes he saw the two at the visitor center where he parks his live-in van. He's not sure of the day, but it was around the time he remembers seeing someone who looked like an ex-convict.

Pearson, who refers to himself as "the mayor" of Jenner and acknowledges his own police record for drunken driving, said he was a little foggy on the details.

"Sometimes it's like this in Jenner," he said, motioning toward the thick white blanket of fog coming in from the sea. "Time stops."



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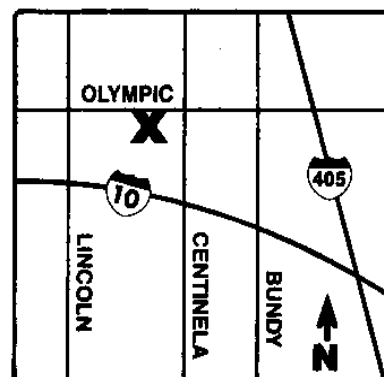
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STATE

Bring your quarters: California hosts a garage sale

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — California is cleaning out its garage and holding a yard sale, selling off surplus office equipment and computers, along with cars, espresso machines and baseball cards the state has accumulated over the years.

The massive housecleaning is part of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's move to make state government more efficient and is an idea highlighted in the 2,700-page California Performance Review he ordered. Better management of the state's assets was also the subject of an executive order and legislation Schwarzenegger signed.

The state Department of General Services leases warehouses that are stacked with giant crates, each one filled with surplus state goods, but most of which "were just sitting here for years, gathering dust," said Fred Aguiar, secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency.

In what he called the first thorough purging of its warehouses, Aguiar said at least one of the crates held surplus goods from a department that has been defunct for two years.

Selling the property Friday and Saturday will help

clean out "the cobwebs of government," Schwarzenegger said.

The Department of General Services surplus warehouse in Sacramento, normally open to the public for sales of used office equipment, will be closed Thursday so workers can sort and price the goods.

Items such as office furniture, tools, computers, restaurant equipment, jewelry and baseball cards will be set out for sale Friday and Saturday. Also among the surplus property is a 1995 Ford Mustang with 48,000 miles seized by South Lake Tahoe police.

"I've got to tell you, it's in very good shape," Aguiar said.

While most of the items are from various state agencies and offices, but others have come to the state through asset forfeitures and other avenues, said Aguiar.

On Wednesday, workers sorted boxes of thousands of knives, scissors and nail clippers — and one abandoned electric cattle prod — seized at airport security checkpoints. "Hand tools, power tools — I don't know what they were thinking trying to get on a plane with this," Aguiar said.

There are three airplane engines, a popcorn machine,

3,000 light bulbs for traffic signals, a lemonade dispenser and at least one forklift among the items in the 100,000-square-foot warehouse, he said.

The airplane engines came from state departments that use planes, such as the California Highway Patrol, he said. The restaurant equipment came from a Department of Rehabilitation program.

"They have been sitting in the warehouse with the thought that they could be used one day," he said. "But the governor was clear: If it's not being used, get rid of it."

In case bargain hunters can't be in Sacramento for the sale, the state is also selling many items on eBay under the seller name californiagold2000.

Aguiar said he didn't know how much money the sale would raise. But by ridding itself of so much stuff, the state expected to save money on warehouse rents.

The state garage sale will also accept old televisions, computers and monitors and other electronic equipment for recycling. Such electronic equipment often contain components that are harmful to the environment and require special disposal.

The state will accept cash, credit cards and personal checks, Aguiar said, adding, "These items are priced to move."

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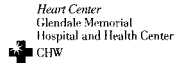
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STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Bus safety beefed up

By The Associated Press

RIALTO — New guidelines are being imposed by the school district to increase the safety of students who ride school buses to and from campus.

The enhanced guidelines announced Wednesday come three weeks after a school bus driver left 5-year-old Sarah Macias stranded in Fontana five miles from home. The girl got on the wrong bus Aug. 4, the second day of classes at Elizabeth T. Hughbanks Elementary School.

“They are doing basically what I want them to do — get a policy and have this never happen again,” said Michelle Macias, the girl’s mother.

The bus driver forced the girl off at the end of the line. A short time later, a motorist spotted the distressed youngster and took her to the Fontana Police Department.

In a letter to elementary school principals Wednesday, the Rialto Unified School District said all bus riders will immediately be given name tags that state their bus route and number. District spokeswoman Marilyn Cardosi said there is also a proposal to give drivers a student facebook that would include emergency contacts.

Principals have been asked to submit additional recommendations.

The bus driver, whose name has not been released, was placed on administrative leave, Cardosi said. She declined to discuss the investigation or the driver because it is a personnel issue.

The California Highway Patrol was also investigating the incident, Lt. Renee DiFronzo said.

Maglite magnifies presence

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — Mag Instrument Co. is expanding its Maglite flashlight manufacturing operation with a 700,000-square-foot plant that is expected to triple the company’s local job base to 2,400.

While some firms are fleeing California or the country, Anthony Maglica said he decided to stay in Ontario despite the high cost of doing business in California. It’s a move that will create a total impact to the state of \$1 billion a year.

“It’s not the money, it’s the people,” said Maglica, 73, referring to his employees. “These people held my business up. I didn’t do it myself. There are people that have been with me 30 years and they are still with me.

“What do I do? Say ‘I have enough money. Goodbye?’”

A groundbreaking ceremony on the expanded plant was scheduled Thursday afternoon at the Mag Instrument site on South Hellman Avenue. The new facility, expected to be ready in 2005, will replace much of the 500,000 square foot facility that now stands at the site.

“To have a headquarters and manufacturing plant in Ontario, is the beginning of reversing the trend that we’ve seen in the last five years of manufacturing leaving California,” said Mary Jane Olhasso, Ontario’s economic development director.

Nearly 350,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in California in the last three years, according to the California Manufacturers and Technology Association.

Brownies rolling in dough

By The Associated Press

TORRANCE — Brownies got back their cookie dough.

At a court hearing Wednesday a former Brownie leader, charged with felony grand theft for taking more than \$5,000 from her troop, repaid what she stole. Dawn Marie Irwin’s attorney handed troop treasurer Nancy Indiere a money order for \$5,235.

It reimburses the troop for money raised during annual cookie sales.

Deputy Public Defender Joe Gualano and Deputy District Attorney Paulette Paccione told Superior Court Judge Thomas R. Sokolov they will now work on a plea deal and the judge set a hearing for Sept. 2.

Although the crime calls for a maximum three-year prison sentence, prosecutors said it was unlikely Irwin would serve time in custody.

Irwin, 30, didn’t speak to reporters on Wednesday

but she told the Daily Breeze earlier that she took the money to pay off blackmailers. Irwin said she was beaten and feared for the lives of her family members.

Police copters sold for cash

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Sheriff Bob Brooks trimmed his budget by selling two department helicopters for \$760,000, a move that leaves only three helicopters in the aviation unit.

Brooks said in a statement Wednesday that he sold the helicopters to meet required budget reductions. The Sheriff’s Department had a fleet of six helicopters; one helicopter had been grounded and will be cannibalized for spare parts.

Sold was a 1987 McDonnell Douglas helicopter that the county bought in 1993. It was refurbished before being put into service in 1994 and it featured night flying capabilities and a 15 million candlepower searchlight. The county sold it for \$611,000.

The other helicopter was a 1972 Bell OH-58 once used by the military. The county purchased it in 1997 and began using it in 1999. It sold for \$148,000.

The aviation unit is primarily used for search and rescue, emergency medical response and firefighting, along with some law enforcement missions.

Nurses to mend child obesity

By The Associated Press

FOUNTAIN VALLEY — School nurses have enlisted in the childhood obesity fight.

Obesity dominated discussions at the annual Orange County School Nurses Organization conference on Wednesday, where education leaders emboldened 160 school nurses to curb a growing epidemic.

“We have a true crisis in this country and this county, and you are going to be the people who play a major role in this crusade,” said William M. Habermehl, county superintendent of schools for the Orange County Department of Education.

About 16 percent of children in the United States are overweight, triple the percentage in 1980. Orange County exceeds the national average with nearly 20 percent of students classified as overweight or obese.

The department of education wants school nurses to put together councils of parents, school-lunch planners, administrators and kids that would find problem areas and wrestle them to the ground.

“You have a true understanding of the problems of diabetes and obesity,” Habermehl said. “Who better than you to say, ‘This is important, and I have answers and knowledge in my community.’”

Conflict costs millions

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center has paid nearly \$1 million over the past five years to a surgical instrument company owned by one of its surgeons in violation of the county’s conflict of interest laws.

“That’s verboten,” the county’s top purchasing manager Joe Sandoval said.

Additionally, the county-owned medical center paid more than double the price for medical devices made by the orthopedic surgeon, Dr. James K. Brannon, as it would have for instruments used by most hospitals, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday.

The county suspended its contract with Orthopedic Sciences Inc. after the newspaper inquired about Brannon’s roles at the company and the hospital. County health officials were investigating.

A Times review of 170 invoices submitted by Orthopedic Sciences shows that Brannon routinely used his company’s products during operations.

In at least five hip surgeries he performed, King/Drew spent more than \$17,000 buying instruments and implantable devices, invoices show. That cost alone was more than triple what the county was paid by Medi-Cal for each surgery plus two subsequent days in the hospital.

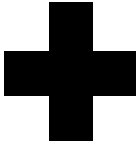
Conflict-of-interest rules are intended to ensure that there is no incentive for doctors to have patients undergo inappropriate or costly procedures.

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NATIONAL

Company wants heavy metal suit to be dumped

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS

Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — A Canadian mining company said Thursday it will ask a U.S. judge to dismiss a unique lawsuit over heavy metal pollution the company sent into Lake Roosevelt in Washington state.

It was the latest move in a diplomatic conflict between Canada and the United States over enforcement of environmental laws across the border.

Teck Cominco Ltd. of Vancouver, British Columbia, has been sued by the Colville Confederated Tribes of Eastern Washington, who want the company to clean up decades of pollution that flowed from its giant smelter in Trail, B.C., into the lake. The lead-zinc smelter is about 10 miles above the border.

The company contends that diplomatic channels, rather than the courts, are the proper forum to resolve an international dispute.

"We call on the governments of the U.S. and Canada to make an agreement so we can get on with addressing the concerns of Lake Roosevelt," said Doug

Horswill, a spokesman for Teck Cominco.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency late last year decided that the decades of toxic metals released into the lake had violated the nation's Superfund law. The agency demanded that Teck Cominco pay to study the extent of the pollution, and then pay for the cleanup.

The Colville Confederated Tribes, whose reservation borders the lake, sued Teck Cominco in July for failing to comply with that order.

Lake Roosevelt is the reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River. Black mining slag from the smelter flowed down the river and settled on its beaches.

Bill Dunbar, a spokesman for EPA in Seattle, said the key issue is that the pollution ended up in the United States.

"We want the company to address pollution they deposited in U.S. waters," Dunbar said. "We are looking to clean up the Columbia below the border."

Teck Cominco's legal maneuvering is forcing U.S. taxpayers to pay for the studies, Dunbar said.

Teck Cominco has argued that the

Superfund law was never intended to apply to foreign companies.

A hearing on the motion to dismiss the lawsuit is set for Nov. 4 in federal court in Yakima, Wash.

If the motion to dismiss is granted, Teck Cominco attorneys believe that will invalidate the entire EPA order, Teck Cominco attorney Len Manuel said. But Dunbar said the EPA disputes that interpretation.

Manuel said there is no precedent for such an order against a foreign company.

Teck Cominco continues to offer to spend \$13 million to study the pollution and pay for appropriate cleanup. But talks broke down when EPA said those studies would not satisfy Superfund requirements.

The Canadian government in January asked the U.S. government to dismiss the EPA order, and enter into negotiations that would allow Teck Cominco to perform cleanup work, Horswill said. The two countries met to discuss the issue in February in Ottawa, but no agreement has been reached.

Horswill predicted there would ulti-

mately be a diplomatic solution.

Mo McBroom, a lawyer for the Washington Public Interest Research Group, said Teck Cominco is just trying to limit its liability.

"For decades the company refused to respond to concerns raised by Washington regulators and community members," McBroom said. "Now Teck Cominco is paying the big bucks to fight liability, rather than spending that money on cleaning up their mess."

"Companies that pollute American soil shouldn't be able to evade our cleanup laws, simply because they're located in Canada," McBroom said.

Teck Cominco contends that some of the heavy metals pollution in the lake came from other sources.

The smelter has dumped an estimated 10 million to 20 million tons of waste slag into the river. Slag is a smelting byproduct that contains some traces of toxic metals. Horswill said studies are needed to determine how dangerous the slag is to humans and wildlife.

Each year, more than a million people visit the lake.

Agriculture Dept. releases funds to protect sage grouse

BY IRA DREYFUSS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department offered \$2 million Thursday to help private land owners in four Western states protect the habitat of the sage grouse.

The bird, about the size of chicken, has seen its numbers thin as its territory gets crowded by homes, cattle and oil and natural gas wells.

The money will be available under the Grassland Reserve Program, which gives ranchers and farmers dollars and technical help in protecting grassland and shrubland.

Those areas include the sagebrush where the birds live.

The funding might help protect tens of thousands of acres, said Bruce Knight, chief of the Agriculture Department's Natural Resources Conservation Service. It's "a small slice of money" but a step in the right direction, he said.

The Agriculture Department said sage grouse numbers had fallen by 90 percent in 20 years. Estimates of the current population vary, but generally range from around 140,000 birds to 250,000 or more. Experts say there were as many as 2 million when in the early 19th century, when Lewis and Clark explored the West.

Environmental groups have asked the Interior

Department to place the birds on its endangered species list. Doing so could sharply restrict use of 770,000 square miles in 11 states where the birds live. About 28 percent of those acres is private land.

They were skeptical about how much can be done for the sage grouse with the \$500,000 that Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Washington will each get to encourage private voluntary efforts.

"This is going to be a token amount in terms of actually causing change on the ground," said Peter Aengst, an energy policy analyst for The Wilderness Society in Bozeman, Mont.

He said stronger government action is needed, such as protecting nesting areas in spring and summer so loud noises from oil and gas wells do not frighten the birds away from their eggs.

Jim Sims, a vice president of Partnership for the West, a business group in Denver, praised the program, however. "Encouraging conservation on private land is a hard thing to do," he said.

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NATIONAL

Container alternatives costly for Western shippers

BY WILLIAM MCCALL
AP Business Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — West Coast shipping costs could increase and U.S. agricultural exports are likely to suffer unless the Port of Portland finds a way to replace two departing steamship lines that carry container cargo, officials said Thursday.

Portland is dwarfed by California ports. But any decrease in container traffic through the Pacific Northwest, and its rail connections to the Midwest and South, could increase costs for all Pacific freight and cargo, according to industry and state officials at a shipping "summit conference."

The ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland in California, along with Tacoma in Washington state, are already congested and struggling to keep up with container traffic, officials said.

Congestion is so bad in Los Angeles the port has a \$40 surcharge per container that is refunded if the shipper loads or unloads after peak hours, according to industry experts at the conference.

"This is a big national problem," said Peter Friedmann, spokesman for the Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition.

The conference was organized by the coalition after Hyundai Merchant Marine and the "K" Line announced they would halt service to the Port of Portland by the end of the year, leaving only Hanjin Shipping to handle oceangoing container traffic along the Columbia River to Portland.

The big 20- to 40-foot containers can be packed with just about anything, from electronics to clothing to perishable fruit.

Farmers as far inland as the Midwest use containers to pack agricultural products such as fruits, peas and lentils, or specialty crops, such as hazelnuts from Oregon, the world's second-largest producer.

But shipping companies such as Hyundai and "K" Line are moving to bigger vessels that need deeper water than the Columbia River, which already adds costs for the 104-mile transit along the river compared to the ocean ports in California and Washington state.

President Bush announced Aug. 13 on

a campaign swing through Oregon that he would urge Congress to approve a \$150 million dredging project that will deepen the Columbia River channel by 3 feet to an average of 43 feet all the way from Portland to the Pacific.

Bush had originally rejected funding in his initial federal budget proposal in February, and his decision to support the project was welcomed by regional business and political leaders.

But many of those same leaders agreed Thursday the project will begin too late to prevent Hyundai and "K" Line from changing course, forcing farmers, manufacturers and wood products companies to consider alternatives that appear costly.

"This is not free," said Terri Bartle, a Columbia River Customs Broker & Freight Forwarder Association board member. "Somebody is going to have to pay for this."

The three main alternatives are loading containers on oceangoing barges in Portland for shipment to the container yards in Tacoma, or shipping them by rail or truck to Tacoma.

Each alternative has drawbacks, and the cost increases with all three, with barging the least expensive and trucks the most costly.

Truckers would have to add extra-heavy duty trailers to their fleets in order to carry the extra weight on already crowded highways and freeways, increasing wear and tear on roads and adding to air pollution, said Heather Stewart of China Pacific Co., a freight forwarder.

Gary Cardwell of Northwest Container Services, a short-haul railroad, told the conference his company can handle the overflow container traffic that would be routed from Portland to Tacoma. But in terms of lower costs, "the winner is the river."

Barging would be cheaper, but Richard Lauer of Sause Bros., which has operated ocean barges since the 1930s, told the conference there are a number of problems — including the time spent on the 443-mile trip over water between Portland and Tacoma, compared to about 140 miles by rail or truck.

"It's not cheap, and it's not going to be competitive," Lauer said of ocean barging.

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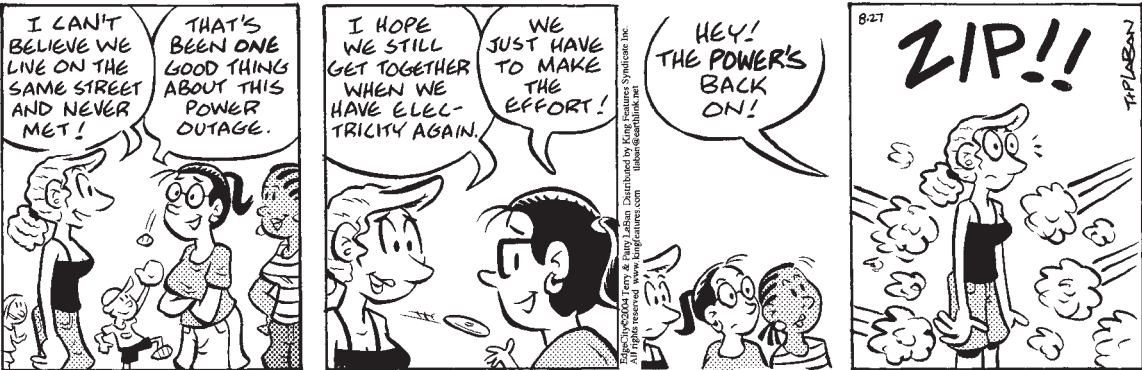


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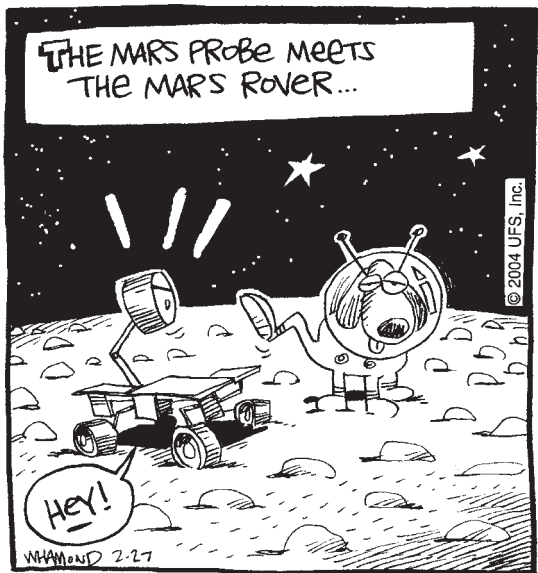
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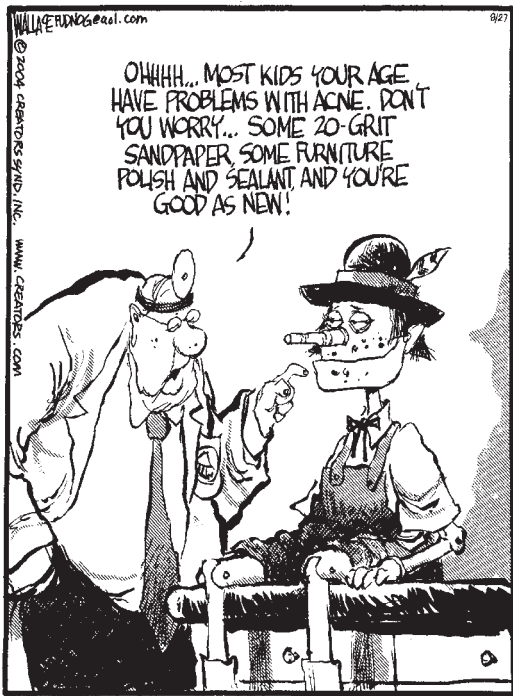
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